AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Amended) ~~The opening method of continuous filaments as set forth in claim 2, wherein~~ An opening method for continuous filaments, comprising the steps of:

transporting crimped tow by means of a plurality of rolls; and

applying a resistance on at least one side of said tow by slidingly contacting a plurality of sliding bodies onto said tow at a position between said rolls, whereby continuous filaments stacked in a thickness direction of said tow are caused to shift in a transporting direction of said tow to open said tow and to spread said continuous filaments in a latitudinal direction of said tow, wherein

each side of said tow is slidingly contacted by at least one of said sliding bodies, and each sliding body is adjustable ~~of~~ about a tilt angle relative to a line perpendicular to a transporting path of said ~~TOW~~ tow and a penetration amount into the transporting path of said ~~TOW~~ tow.

4. (Currently amended) The opening method ~~of~~ for continuous filaments as set forth in claim 3, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises a~~ comprising the step of:

detecting a width of spread continuous filaments after slidingly contacting with said sliding bodies, and ~~a step of~~

automatically adjusting said tilt angle and said penetration amount of said sliding bodies based on ~~the basis of the~~ a detected value.

5. (Currently amended) The opening method ~~of~~ for continuous filaments as set forth in claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein peripheral speeds of rolls located at an

upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body are identical ~~the same~~.

6. (Currently amended) The opening method ~~of~~ for continuous filaments as set forth in claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein, among rolls located at an upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body, ~~the~~ a peripheral speed of the roll located at the downstream side is set higher than that of the roll located at the upstream side for applying tension force on said ~~TOW~~ tow between the rolls.

7. (Currently amended) An opening apparatus ~~of~~ for continuous filaments, comprising:

a transporting roll group for transporting crimped ~~TOW~~ tow of continuous filaments; ~~and~~

~~at least one sliding body~~ a plurality of sliding bodies arranged between rolls of said transporting roll group ~~for slidingly contacting with said TOW to be transported~~ so that each side of said tow is slidingly contacted by at least one of said sliding bodies;

detecting means for detecting a width of spread continuous filaments after slidingly contacting with said sliding bodies;

adjusting means for adjusting a tilt angle of each sliding body relative to a line perpendicular to a transporting path of said tow and a penetration amount of each sliding body into the transporting path of said tow; and

control means for controlling said adjusting means for varying said tilt angle and said penetration amount of each sliding body based on a value detected by said detecting means.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The opening apparatus ~~of~~ for continuous filaments as set forth in claim 9 wherein said rolls located at an upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body are driven to rotate at ~~the same~~ an identical peripheral speed.

11. (Currently amended) The opening apparatus for continuous filaments as set forth in claim 7 wherein, among rolls located at an upstream side and a downstream side of said sliding body and driven to rotate, ~~the~~ a peripheral speed of the roll located at the downstream side is set higher than that of the roll located at the upstream side.